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PRESS RELEASE

After Downey's Strong Opposition to Metro's Proposed Widening Alternatives for the I-605 Corridor Improvement Project, Metro Board Will Consider a Motion to Include a More Locally-Supported Alternative in the EIR

Downey, CA, October 20, 2020:

The City of Downey is pleased to learn that the Metro Board of Directors will consider a motion this upcoming Thursday, October 22, which will direct Metro staff to delay the release of its Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the I-605 Corridor Improvement Project until it includes a more locally-supported alternative that will minimize the number of properties that may be taken in Downey as part of the freeway widening.

For months, Downey officials have been working closely with the City of Santa Fe Springs, Gateway Cities Council of Governments (GCCOG) and the I-5 Joint Powers Authority (JPA), to get Metro and Caltrans to minimize the number of homes that may potentially be taken as part of the I-605 Corridor Improvement Project, which includes widening of the I-5 freeway from the I-605 interchange to the Rio Hondo River.

"Our City has been actively pushing for other alternatives that will help minimize negative impacts for our residents," said Mayor Blanca Pacheco. "We are happy to know Metro's Board of Directors heard our concerns and they agree that we must consider an alternative that will take into consideration our community's concerns."

Mayor Pro Tem Claudia M. Frometa, who serves as Vice Chair of the I-5 JPA Policy Board, added, "We as a City have been very proactive and vocal in opposing Metro's proposed alternatives, which would have impacted hundreds of homes in our community. "Our goal is to continue working with all agencies involved to ensure the best possible outcome for our residents."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE